CCRB INVESTIGATIVE RECOMMENDATION

Investigator:		Team:	CCRB Case #:	✓ For	ce [Discourt.	U.S.
Craig Anderson		Squad #7	201404797	☑ Abι	ise [O.L.	Injury
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Incident Date(s)		Location of Incident:		Preci		18 Mo. SOL	EO SOL
Wednesday, 04/16/2014 4:20 PM		134-47 Springfield Boulevard; 105th Precinct stationhouse; Queens Central Booking		10.	5	10/16/2015	10/16/2015
Date/Time CV Reported		CV Reported At:	How CV Reported:	Date	/Time R	Received at CCI	RB
Fri, 05/16/2014 1:31 PM		CCRB	Phone	Fri,	05/16/20	014 1:31 PM	
Complainant/Victim	Type	Home Addre	SS				
Witness(es)		Home Addre	ess				
Subject Officer(s)	Shield	TaxID	Command				
1. DT3 Eugen Popovici	01942	942375	NARCBMN				
Witness Officer(s)	Shield N	o Tax No	Cmd Name				
1. DT3 Michael Garcia	02750	934902	NARCBQN				
2. SGT Alexander Lago	04365	932874	NARCBQN				
3. POM Daniel Cruz	29764	936405	NARCBQN				
4. DT3 Carlos Zena	04459	923088	NARCBQN				
5. DT3 Dimitrios Roidis	07470	935638	NARCBQN				
6. DT3 Erik Nelson	03197	942266	NARCBQN				
Officer(s)	Allegation	on			Invest	tigator Recon	nmendation
A.DT3 Eugen Popovici		t 134-47 Springfield Boo opovici used physical for		Det.			
B.DT3 Eugen Popovici	Central I	At the 105th Precinct stat Booking, Det. Eugen Pop d shield number to ^{§ 87(2)(}	povici refused to pro				



filed this complaint with the CCRB by phone on May 16, 2014 (encl. 41A-C). On April 16, 2014 at 4:20 p.m., ser(2)(b) was arrested by officers from Narcotics Borough Queens at 134-47 Springfield Boulevard. The following allegations resulted:

• Allegation A – Force: At 134-47 Springfield Boulevard in Queens, Det. Eugen Popovici used physical force against \$87(2)(6) \$87(2)(9)

• Allegation B – Abuse of Authority: At the 105th Precinct stationhouse and at Queens Central Booking, Det. Eugen Popovici refused to provide his name and shield number to \$87(2)(b)

This case was assigned to Inv. Craig Anderson on August 28, 2014, following Inv. Jacqueline Levy's promotion to Assistant Supervisor. This case was ineligible for mediation due to \$27,000 as arrest.

Results of Investigation

Civilian Statements

Complainant/Victim: §87(2)(b)

- \$87(2)(b) is a black man who is 6'3" tall, weighs 220 pounds, and has black hair in braids with a beard and brown eyes. He was \$87(2)(b) old at the time of this incident.
- § 87(2)(b)

Statements to Medical Personnel (medical records folder)

\$87(2)(b) told staff at \$87(2)(b) he was beat up by police.

Arrest Photo (encl. 11.1C)

No injuries are visible in §87(2)(b) s arrest photo. His hair is braided in the photo.

Photos Provided by §87(2)(b) (encl. 12A-B)

Photos taken by (2016) on April 19, 2014 at approximately 12:30 p.m. show a cut above his left eyebrow, a cut below his left eye, and a small abrasion on his nose.

Photos of §87(2)(b) s Hat (encl. 10A-E)

At the time of his CCRB interview, \$87(2)(b) s hat had a dent on it and a small bloodstain on the inside, which he stated was due to Det. Popovici punching him in the head.

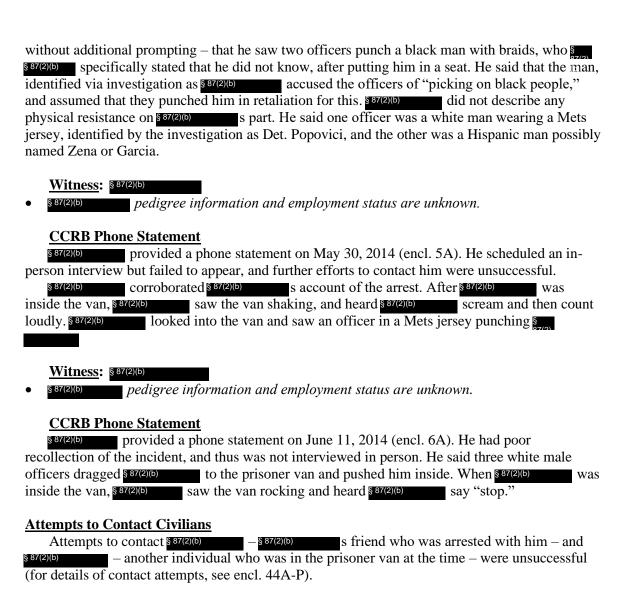
CCRB Statement

was interviewed at the CCRB on May 22, 2013 (encl. 9A-C). He viewed officer photos on August 7, 2014 (encl. 13A-J).

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On April 16, 2014 at 4:20 p.m., §87(2)(b) and his friends §87(2)(b)
and § 87(2)(b) were standing in front of a deli at 134-47 Springfield Boulevard in Queens.
had a small bag of marijuana in his pocket. He briefly walked around the corner and
returned to join his friends in front of the deli.
One minute later, approximately eight to ten officers arrived in an unmarked van and two or
three unmarked cars. The officers first arrested \$87(2)(b) and put him in the prisoner van. When
asked the officers why they were arresting \$87(2)(b) they handcuffed him too and
escorted him toward the van. §87(2)(b) was calm and compliant. He tripped on his sagging
pants as he attempted to enter the van, and asked an officer to help him pull him his pants and get
inside. As \$87(2)(b) was getting into the van, Det. Eugen Popovici (identified by
into the side of
the van, causing him to hit the left side of his head against the van's doorway. §87(2)(b)
indicated that Det. Popovici was wearing a Mets jersey.
fell into a seat in the van. Det. Popovici and PO Daniel Cruz (identified by
in the photo viewing, see encl. 9C for description) got in the van. The other officers
remained outside. PO Cruz put the seatbelt on \$87(2)(b) and began to get out of the van. Det.
Popovici then punched \$87(2)(b) in the head six times in rapid succession. \$87(2)(b)
counted the punches by yelling out loud. One of the punches hit \$87(2)(b) in the nose because
he bent down, and the others hit him on the left side of the face or on his hat. Det. Popovici left
the van after this. Two civilians who \$87(2)(b) specifically stated he did not know – identified
via investigation as \$87(2)(b) and \$87(2)(b) who were both arrested earlier in the
day at different locations – were inside the van, along with \$87(2)(b)
did not remember which officers drove the van to the 105 th Precinct
stationhouse. At the stationhouse, \$87(2)(b) asked to go to the hospital because he felt dizzy
after being punched in the head. Det. Popovici tried to convince him not to go by saying he would
be there all day. \$87(2)(6) asked for Det. Popovici's name and shield number. Det. Popovici
provided several different names, including "Spring" or "Springer," and did not give a shield
number.
§ 87(2)(b) was eventually taken to § 87(2)(b) in an
ambulance with PO Cruz. After being treated for cuts that did not require stitches, he was taken
back to the stationhouse and later taken to Queens Central Booking in a van with Det. Popovici.
asked for his name and shield number again, but Det. Popovici again said his name
was "Spring" or "Springer" and did not give a shield number.
was charged with selling marijuana. After he was released, he returned §87(2)(b)
for follow-up treatment.

Witness: § 87(2)(b)
• From arrest report: \$87(2)(b) is a black man who is 6'2" tall, weighs 135 pounds, and
has black hair and brown eyes. He was \$87(2)(b) old at the time of this incident.
• §87(2)(b) was identified via the 105 th Precinct command log, which showed that he was
brought to the stationhouse at the same time as \$87(2)(b) and \$87(2)(b)
CCRB Phone Statement
provided a phone statement on June 25, 2014 (encl. 7A). He scheduled an in-
person interview but did not appear. Attempts to reschedule were unsuccessful.
confirmed that he was arrested on April 16, 2014 (see encl. 24F-H for arrest
report). When asked what he saw while he was kept in the prisoner van after his arrest, he said –



NYPD Statements:

Subject Officer: DETECTIVE EUGEN POPOVICI

- Det. Popovici is a white man who is 6'1" tall, weighs 180 pounds, and has brown hair and brown eyes. He was \$87(2)(b) old at the time of this incident.
- On April 16, 2014, Det. Popovici worked from 8:27 a.m. to 6 p.m. He was in plainclothes in an unmarked prisoner van with Det. Carlos Zena, assigned to a team doing buy-and-busts.

Memo Book (encl. 14A-B)

Det. Popovici's memo book noted the arrest and its location.

CCRB Statement

Det. Popovici was interviewed at the CCRB on November 6, 2014 (encl. 15C).

Page 4 CCRB Case # 201404797 At the time of this incident, Det. Popovici was driving the narcotics team's prisoner van, with Det. Carlos Zena in the passenger seat. They arrived at 134-47 Springfield Boulevard after the other officers, because the prisoner van usually arrives later. When they arrived, Det. Cruz and Det. Roidis were holding and and who were both handcuffed. Det. Zena got out to assist them, and Det. Popovici stayed in the van because there was another prisoner inside from an earlier arrest.

After about a minute, Det. Popovici heard something hitting the van, and heard saying things like "Fuck you pigs" and "Fuck this bullshit." Det. Popovici got out of the van to assist them, and saw Det. Zena, Det. Roidis, Det. Cruz, and Sgt. Alexander Lago trying to put saying in the van. [87(2)(6)] was kicking his feet all around, hitting the van with his feet and shoulder, and making various body movements to avoid being put in the van. Det. Popovici did not remember [87(2)(6)] a pants falling down, causing him difficulty in getting in the van.

Det. Popovici assisted the other officers by lifting \$87(2)(b) by the shoulder. He did not hit \$87(2)(b) s head against the side of the van door. After \$87(2)(b) was inside, Sgt. Lago told Det. Popovici to make sure \$87(2)(b) had his seatbelt on. Det. Popovici went in the van and put \$87(2)(b) s seatbelt on. \$87(2)(b) continued to yell. Det. Popovici did not hit him in the face. He believed that Det. Roidis may have been inside the van with him at that time.

After this, Det. Popovici and Det. Zena drove the van to the 105th Precinct stationhouse. yelled for the first few minutes of the drive, but gradually calmed down.

When they arrived, Det. Popovici opened the prisoner van's door. \$\frac{87(2)(b)}{2}\$ immediately asked for his name and shield number, as well as the names and shield numbers of Det. Zena, "Porky Pig," and "the other fat fuck." Det. Popovici stated his name and shield number and had his shield visible around his neck. He never gave the name "Spring," "Springer," or any name other than his own. Det. Popovici asked \$\frac{87(2)(b)}{2}\$ if he needed medical attention, because he always does when bringing prisoners to the stationhouse, and \$\frac{87(2)(b)}{2}\$ said no. Det. Popovici never saw injuries on \$\frac{87(2)(b)}{2}\$ never complained of injuries to him, and he did not recognize the injuries in the photo provided by \$\frac{87(2)(b)}{2}\$ when it was presented during the interview.

continued to request his name and shield number in the stationhouse, so Det. Popovici wrote them on a piece of paper and gave them to him.

Det. Popovici later learned that \$87(2)(b) was hospitalized, but was not sure why. He believed Det. Roidis and PO Cruz transported him to the hospital. Det. Popovici never saw after this.

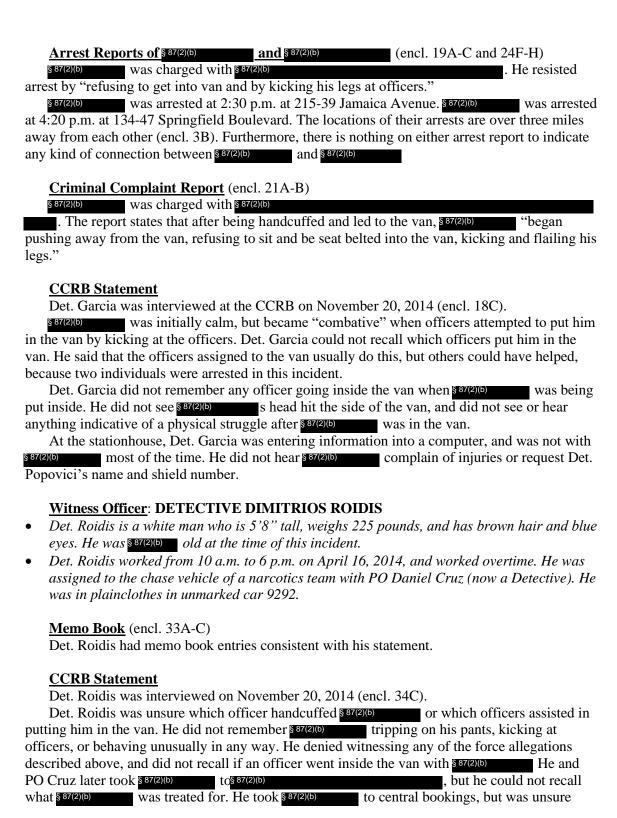
Witness Officer: DETECTIVE MICHAEL GARCIA

- Det. Garcia is a Hispanic man who is 5'7" tall, weighs 185 pounds, and has brown hair and brown eyes. He was \$87(2)(5) old at the time of this incident.
- Det. Garcia worked from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on April 16, 2014. (Based on his memo book, he worked overtime until 11:30 p.m.) He was assigned as the arresting officer on a buy-and-bust team, and was assigned to an unmarked minivan with Sgt. Alexander Lago and Det. Erik Nelson.

Memo Book (encl.17A-B)

16:00, Arrived in area of Springfield Boulevard and Merick. \$87(2)(6). \$87(2)

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Page 6 CCRB Case # 201404797 which officer or officers went with him. He did not hear \$87(2)(b) request Det. Popovici's name or shield number at any time.

Witness Officer: PO DANIEL CRUZ

- PO Cruz is a Hispanic man who is 5'5" tall, weighs 180 pounds, and has black hair and brown eyes. He was \$87(2)(b) old at the time of this incident.
- On April 16, 2014, PO Cruz worked from 9:27 a.m. to 6 p.m. He was in a buy-and-bust team assigned to the unmarked chase car with Det. Roidis, in plainclothes.

Memo Book (encl. 27A-D)

PO Cruz had memo book entries consistent with his statement.

CCRB Statement

PO Cruz had been promoted to detective at the time of his interview on October 22, 2014 (encl. 28C). His statement was consistent with Det. Roidis' statement except where noted.

PO Cruz did not witness sar(2)(b) s alleged resistance to being put in the van, but was informed of it by Det. Garcia. He was unsure what officers did to overcome this resistance. He did not remember going inside the prisoner van with sar(2)(b) PO Cruz was unaware that was hospitalized, and said he did not go to the hospital with him.

Witness Officer: DETECTIVE CARLOS ZENA

- Det. Zena is a Hispanic man who is 5'11" tall, weighs 225 pounds, and has brown hair and brown eyes. He was \$87(2)(6) old at the time of this incident.
- On April 16, 2014, Det. Zena worked from 9:27 a.m. to 6 p.m. He was assigned to an unmarked prisoner van with Det. Popovici and was in plainclothes.

Memo Book (encl. 30A-C)

Det. Zena had memo book entries consistent with his statement.

CCRB Statement

Det. Zena was interviewed on November 6, 2014 (encl. 31C). § 87(2)(9)

and \$37(2)(b) were in handcuffs by the time Det. Zena and Det. Popovici arrived. Det. Zena put items in evidence bags and collected pedigree information. He did not know which officers put \$87(2)(b) in the prisoner van, and did not recall any struggle while he was placed inside. He did not go inside the prisoner area of the van and was unsure if any officer did. Det. Zena was unaware that \$87(2)(b) was hospitalized, and did not know of any injuries.

Officers Not Interviewed

All officers listed on the tactical plan were interviewed except Sgt. Alexander Lago and Det. Erik Nelson. No civilian described officers matching their appearance as being significantly involved, and no officer stated that Sgt. Lago or Det. Nelson went inside the van with Det. Popovici. [87(2)(9)

<u>Medical Records</u> (medical records folder)

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On \$87(2)(b) , a laceration and swelling on \$87(2)(b) s left eyebrow was noted. He received a CT scan, which was negative for internal hemorrhages. He was given Tylenol for a headache. \$87(2)(b) returned on \$87(2)(b) due to continuing headaches, and was given ibuprofen.
Pre-Arraignment Screening Report No abnormalities are noted on this report.
NYPD Documents
<u>Arrest Photos of §87(2)(b)</u> and §87(2)(b) (encl. 24A, 24E, and 24I)
In their arrest photos, \$87(2)(b) and \$87(2)(b) have short hair, and \$87(2)(b) has dread locks. \$87(2)(b) was thus the only prisoner in the van with braids, and the braided man who said was punched likely referred to \$87(2)(b)
<u>Tactical Plan and Buy Report</u> (encl. 39A and 41A-B) See enclosures for details.
Command Log (encl. 40A-B) \$87(2)(b) was logged into the 105 th Precinct stationhouse at 4:45 p.m. His condition was described as apparently normal. He was taken to \$87(2)(b) Roidis and PO Cruz at 7:05 p.m. and returned at 9:30 p.m. He was taken to Queens Central Booking at 9:45 p.m. in RMP 9292. \$87(2)(b) and \$87(2)(b) were logged into the stationhouse at the same time as \$87(2)(b) indicating that they were the individuals in the van with him and \$87(2)(b)
Arrest for Incident and Disposition
[§ 87(2)(b)] [§§ 86(1)(3)&(4)] [§ 87(2)(c)]
 Status of Civil Proceedings S87(2)(b) has not filed a Notice of Claim with the City of New York as of September 16, 2014 with regard to the incident, approximately two months after the end of the 90-day filing period (encl. 45ZZ).
<u>Civilian Criminal History</u>
• This is the first CCRB complaint filed by \$87(2)(b) (encl. 3A).
Subject Officer CCRB History

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- Det. Popovici has been a member of the service for eight years and there are no substantiated CCRB allegations against him (encl. 2A-B).
 - Case 201400121 still pending disposition as of January 2, 2015 \$87(2)(9) An arrestee did not get into the prisoner van quickly enough, and Det. Popovici allegedly used force against him because of this.

Conclusion
Identification of Subject Officer
identified Det. Popovici in a photo viewing. Det. Popovici acknowledged that
he put \$87(2)(b) in the back of the prisoner van and got inside with him, and that \$87(2)(b)
later requested his name and shield number. \$87(2)(6) stated that Det. Popovici was wearing a
Mets jersey, and §87(2)(b) and §87(2)(b) also stated that an officer in a Mets jersey
punched \$ 87(2)(b) \$ 87(2)(g)
Investigative Findings and Recommendations
Allegations Not Pleaded
Although \$87(2)(b) said two officers punched \$87(2)(b) alleged that
only Det. Popovici punched him. § 87(2)(9)
alleged that Det. Popovici tried to convince him not to go to the hospital, but
did not allege that he refused him medical treatment entirely. §87(2)(b) did receive medical
treatment. § 87(2)(g)
Allegation A – Force: At 134-47 Springfield Boulevard in Queens, Det. Eugen Popovici
used physical force against \$87(2)(b)
alleged that, as officers were placing him in the prisoner van after he was
arrested, Det. Popovici pushed him into the side of the van, causing him to hit his head on the
doorway. He further alleged that after Det. Popovici put him in the van and fastened his seatbelt,
Det. Popovici punched him in the head six times, with one punch hitting him in the nose and the
rest of the punches hitting him on the left side of his face or on his hat.
generally corroborated \$87(2)(b) s allegations, and it is undisputed that he is
ho only happened to be present for this incident because he was
arrested earlier in the day for an unrelated matter and was still in the prisoner van at the time
was arrested. Neither \$87(2)(b) nor \$87(2)(b) knew each other by name, they
were arrested at different times and locations, and absolutely no evidence or civilian or officer
testimony obtained by the investigation suggests any sort of relationship between \$87(2)(0) and \$87(2)(0) alleged that after \$87(2)(0) as seatbelt was buckled, an officer
identified via investigation as Det. Popovici and another officer punched him several times in
retaliation for §87(2)(b) saccusation that the officers were "picking on black people."
s accusation that the officers were picking on black people. \$ 87(2)(b) stated that he heard \$ 87(2)(b) scream, and looked into the van and saw Det.
Popovici punching him. \$87(2)(6) stated that he saw the prisoner van rocking, and heard
§ 87(2)(b) yell "stop."
Det Popovici acknowledged that he helped put \$27(2)(b) into the prisoner van and went
Det. Popovici acknowledged that he helped put \$87(2)(b) into the prisoner van and went inside to buckle his seatbelt. He stated that \$87(2)(b) was resisting being put into the van by
kicking his legs and moving his body. He denied pushing him against the side of the van or

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and Det. Popovici, and all denied witnessing the use of force described above. Det. Garcia also stated that \$87(2)(6) was resisting arrest.
Officers must use the minimum force necessary when interacting with a civilian. <u>Patrol Guide</u> , Section 203-11 (encl. 1A-B).
§ 87(2)(g)
§ 87(2)(g)
§ 87(2)(g)
§ 87(2)(g)
Allegation B – Abuse of Authority: At the 105th Precinct stationhouse and at Queens
Central Booking, Det. Eugen Popovici refused to provide his name and shield number to
§ 87(2)(b)
alleged that he requested Det. Popovici's name and shield number when they arrived at the 105 th Precinct stationhouse, and again when they arrived at Queens Central
Booking. He stated that Det. Popovici gave several false names, including "Spring" and
"Springer," and did not give a shield number.
Det. Popovici stated that \$87(2)(b) first requested his name and shield number when he opened the prisoner van door upon arrival at the 105 th Precinct stationhouse. Det. Popovici
verbally stated his name and shield number. §87(2)(b) requested his name and shield number
again inside the stationhouse, and Det. Popovici wrote them down on a piece of paper and gave it
Det. Popovici denied providing his name as "Spring," "Springer," or any name other than his own.
Spring 3100 is the name of an internally-circulated NYPD magazine. A search of prior CCRB
cases reveals numerous substantiated cases in which officers falsely provided their name as
"Spring," their shield number as "3100," or both. (See 201211135 or 201001417, among other
cases.) § 87(2)(g)

punching him in the head. No other officer acknowledged being inside the van with \$87(2)(b)

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§ 87(2)(g)			
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T			
Investigator: Signature	Print	Date	
Supervisor:			
Title/Signature	Print	Date	
Reviewer:			
Title/Signature	Print	Date	
Reviewer:			
Title/Signature	Print	Date	